

1844

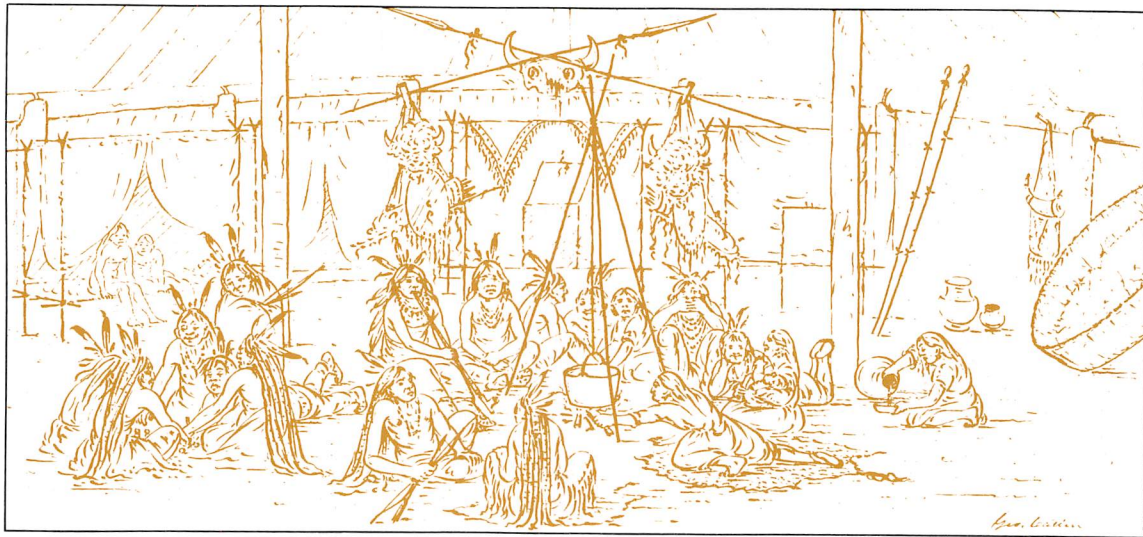
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On May 25, 1844, John C. Fremont entered Utah Valley and probably passed close to the present site of Spanish Fork. Eight months before Fremont had entered the Great Salt Lake Valley and from there had travelled 3,500 miles through a large part of Oregon and California. In 1844 he was on his way back east. He found the Utah Valley fertile and watered by a "delta of prettily timbered stream." "This," Fremont said, "would be an excellent locality for stock farms; it is generally covered with a good bunch grass, and would abundantly produce the ordinary grains." After a short stay in the valley, Fremont headed up Spanish Fork Canyon and reached Independence, Missouri, on July 31. He listed Spanish Fork Canyon on a map which he published in 1845.

- "Spanish Fork - City on the Río De Aguas
calientes," by Alfred p. 10



This map shows the routes of those Americans who, as leaders of government-sponsored expeditions, were to explore and map much of the Great West during the first half of the nineteenth century. Notice that much exploration took place in territory that lay outside of the United States at the time of the expeditions. What does this fact suggest?



Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society, New York City

This George Catlin drawing depicts the interior of an Indian lodge similar to that which Lewis and Clark stayed in during their winter among the Mandans. Catlin spent many years studying and painting Indian life. Much of our knowledge of their vanished ways can be attributed to his work.

1785, by providing for land sales at auction to the highest bidder, foreshadowed future conflict with the Jeffersonian ideal. Much of the public land offered for sale was bought by land speculators and southern plantation owners.

The purchase of this immense frontier territory extending from the Mississippi to the Rockies and from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada assured the future expansion of the United States. Although the English nation

named "The Pathfinder," came to the shores of the Great Salt Lake in the autumn of 1843, after crossing the Rocky Moun-



CAPTAIN FREMONT.

tains on his second exploring expedition to the West. The year before he had ventured only as far as South Pass. Accompanied by "Kit" Carson and others, he now entered "The Great Basin," and on the sixth of September, from the crest of an elevated peninsula (Low Mountain), a little north of Weber River, caught his first glimpse of America's "Dead Sea." Launching his rubber boat he explored Fremont Island, named by him Disappointment Island, because he failed to find there the fertile fields and abundant game he had anticipated.* Fremont seems to have thought it probable that he

was the first white man, if not to see, at least to use a boat upon, this remarkable body of water. The Lake, however, had been discovered and boats launched upon it many years before the Pathfinder appeared upon the scene.

The Fur Hunters—James Bridger.—Early in the nineteenth century this region had been overrun by British and American fur hunters, one of whom, James Bridger, commonly known as Colonel Bridger, claimed to have discovered the Lake in 1825.†

Bridger was then trapping on Bear River. In order to

*Disappointment Island was renamed Fremont Island by Captain Howard Stansbury, U. S. A., in 1849.

†John Jacob Astor, of New York City, was the patriarch of the fur trade in the United States. As told by Washington Irving, in his entertaining volume "Astoria," Astor founded the American Fur Company, in 1808-1809, and later established Astoria, an Indian trading post, at the mouth of the Columbia River. His plan was to have a line of such posts along the Missouri and the Columbia, with Astoria as the emporium or base of supplies. This was the first attempt by an American citizen to break the monopoly of the fur trade inherited by the British from the French at the conquest of Canada. Astor desired New York, instead of London, to be the main market for the lucrative trade in American peltries. He proposed to dispute the supremacy of the British fur companies among the Indian tribes of the Great West, and at the same time form a friendly alliance with the Russian Fur Company, which supplied St. Petersburg and the Chinese Empire with the prod-

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housing assistance for the fiscal year. The money includes public housing subsidies, Indian housing and housing for the elderly and handicapped.

"The housing programs have been hit very, very hard over the past few years," said Mike Brown, spokesman for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "This pretty much takes everything that's left and . . . does not even leave a skeleton."

—Elimination of other grant programs, including the Carter-era urban development action grants used to attract private investment. Officials say the administration may also propose canceling it for the rest of the current fiscal year.

—No renewal of the \$4.5 billion a year revenue-sharing program, which goes to virtually every local government in America. The administration has considered canceling the final \$750 million quarterly payment due in October 1986.

—Major reductions in aid for mass transit systems.

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